Increase in the number of passengers in Summer Season

†*140. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of train passengers in the country increases with the onset of summer season;

(b) if so, whether Government have estimated the likely increase in the number of such passengers during the forth-coming summer season; and

(c) if so, what is the estimated number of passengers likely to be added and out of that, the estimated percentage of number of passengers likely to travel to and from Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western directions, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE): (a) Yes sir.

(b) and (c) During the peak summer months the passenger traffic increases by nearly 22% as compared to the lean months. This trend may continue in the forthcoming summer season also. In this connection, Railways have brought out for the first time an All-India, Summer Special Time Table for the benefit of the passengers.' Direction wise data is, however, difficult to maintain, as it depends on the passengers' demand.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Revision of rates of fertilizers

894. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: WiU the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had revised the rates of urea and other fertilizers in !he country in 1997—1999; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to make urea and other

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

fertilizers available to farmers living on the peaks in Himachal Pradesh on subsidised rates; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Urea is the only fertilizer whose price, movement and distribution is controlled. The Price of urea was revised from Rs. 3320/- per M.T. to Rs. 3660/- per M.T. on 21.2.1997. The price of urea was subsequently raised to Rs. 4140/- per M.T. effect from 2.6.1998. This price increase was revised and the price was restored to Rs. 3660/-per M.T. from 13.6.1998. The price of Urea was again revised to Rs. 4000/- per M.T. with effect from 29.1.1999.

In case of decontrolled P&K fertilizers, the Government operates a scheme of concession to enable sale of these fertilizers at reasonable prices. The Central Government indicated the maximum retail prices for these fertilizers, namely Diammonium Phosphate, Muriate of Potash and various grades of NPK complexes *w.e.f.* 1.4.1997. These maximum retail prices were maintained at the same level for the remaining part of 1997, 1998 and 1999.

(b) and (c) Urea as well as decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers are available to farmers at subsidised rates all over the country including Himachal Pradesh.

Lifting of distribution controls on all Fertilizers

895. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to lift distribution controls on all fertilizers, including urea, diammonium phosphate, moviate of potash, single super phosphate and NPK complexes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far or propose to take for distribution of fertilizers among the farming community in such a